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## A PREPARATORY SHEET, occasioned b the Author's being ask'd at Sea, SHAL ALL that have never heard of FESU CHRIST, be ETERNALLY DAMNED?

TERNALLY DAMNED, are words, that he to whom they we propounded, in remote Parts, hath ever since been so dissatisfied bout, that he is thence moved to take in hand so grand an El quiry, [ as, Whether DAMNATION, or the Torment of the Damne or of Hell it self, shall be so eternal, as never to have any End? Whether that Damnation shall be only Eviternal and have an End, ter the Duration of a certain Number of limited Ages, Suppose a thou

Sand thousand Years, or longer?

And the best Expedient that is known in this controverted Case, may be ter solemn feeking the LORD about it ) a diligent consulting with, and a d confidering the holy Scriptures of Truth, by the teaching of the holy Spirit, cording to the proper significacy of the Words and Expressions, of the Hebrew

the old, and in the Greek of the New Testament.

Not to insist now on Catacrima, Crima, Crisis, or Apoleia, which three lates Words are sometimes translated Judgment, and sometimes Damnation, we m here only take notice, that the word Englished Damnation, so far as doth conce the prefent Question, and is commonly intended by Translators and Annotators. that which doth denote a Judicial, both sentencing of guilty Transgressors ( se as live and dy in unpardoned Sin ) unto, and also the executing upon them the deserved Destruction, or Torment in Hell, commonly accounted Eternal.

This Damnation hath many Expressions both in Hebrew and Greek Scriptur whereby it is fet out, which distinctly to Examine, and much to enlarge upon not here my present Purpose, who would at present confine my now first offer Apprehensions, within one Sheet, reserving the rest to another Discourse, it

Call, and also Encourragement (as needed) be given hereunto.

The Word, and meaning of the word, Eternal, is that, which in this short P pen my Thoughts and Meditations are more taken up about, and confined unt As for the common Acceptation of it, relating to Damnation, or the Torment the Damned in Hell, or in the Lake of Fire, which is the second Death, as it should never have an end, and as if it did fignify fuch a Perpetuity as is end

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s now dissatisfying me, gives me an occasion and motive at the present to search by diligently, Whether in those Scriptures, where it is most ordinarily used, it oth not, in the intendment of the holy Spirit, hold forth rather Eviternity, or ge-wise, if I may so speak, or a Plurality of Ages, in the space of the different purations of the old first Creation, and new second Creation, in Correspondency with the Generations of both, and the like; all which, after a definite Continuance, a certain Number of limited Ages, shall have an End put to it. And this, in

his inquiring Age, is mainly the Subject-matter queried here.

Let me therefore, as one, who is made, both serious in this Enquiry, and wiling either to receive or give Satisfaction, as the LORD shall graciously send forth is Light and Truth, with more cleerness, not at all to savour any the least Sin, nuch less those exceeding odious intollerable Sins of Atheism, and Insidelity, in my present Disobedience against Christ and his Gospel, much less for any Curiosity, mere Scepticisms or Contentiousness, but with a quite contrary Design of Practical improvement thereof, for the promoting of the great Ends of that which is true and sound Christianity, and good and pure Religion, with that now seasonable Love, that now waxeth cold, if I may meet with any winning Invitations, Let me, I say, for Intents and Purposes thus approved, be allowed the modest Liberty, of a tractable Disciple of Jesus Christ, to argue for an Eviternity of Damnaton only, till I can be farther convinced of the contrary, by any better instructed aithful Friend, under Christ, who may be otherwise helpful to me herein. This Eviternity only I thus argue for.

Arg. 1. From the Significancy of Gnolam, and Gnolamim in the Hebrew, and Aiwn, Aiwnes, and Aiwnios in the Greek, as they relate to mere Creatures.

1. Gnolam and Gnolamim, a parte ante, or in what foregoes, do in divers Scriptures denote the foregoing Ages and Generations; hence the Latine Olim, from Gnolam, where it is taken, of past time; so Dent. 32.7. Remember the days of Gnolam, feculi, i. e olim, preteritorum) of old, consider the Years of Generation and Generation, of the Age past, Pfal 77.5, 11. & 119.52. Ifa. 40.9. so Joshua 24.2. In passing over the River your Fathers have dwelt Megnolam a feculo, t. e. olim, from of old, Eccles. 1.10. that hath already been Begnolamim, aliquot retro Seculis, in ome Ages past.

2. Also a parte post, in what Gnolam and Gnolamim are consequent towards, and wherein they have respect to a suture Duration, Gen. 17.7. a Covenant Gnolam of he Age, where it doth respect Abrabams Seed in their suture Generations, and er. 8, about their Possessions (where it is not everlasting, but Gnolam, of the Age, Exed. 21.6. He shall serve thee Legnolam in Seculum, not for ever, but unto the Age,

e. unto the Years of Jubile.

3. Sometimes it takes in both, a parte ante, and respects Duration past, and parte post too, and respects Duration to come, as Psal. 145. 13. Where Christ's kingdom is said to be a Kingdom Col-Gnolamim, omnium Seculorum, of all or every of the Ages, his Dominations in all Generation and Generations, Isa. 45. 17. a Salation (not everlatting.) but Gnolamim of the Ages; and ye shall not be assumed,

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the Ages by Christ. Hence the Rabbins speak, amongst their Traditions, of a threfold Gnolamim, the upper, middle, and lower Gnolam, all whith three Gnolamist they apply, to the Worlds created in time, and may be understood of the Ages the World, as made in their course of Duration, and the Forms thereof, by Christian, 1.17. Christ may be there called the Kingdom twn Aiwnwn, of the Ages, but what refers to Aiwn may fall in under the next Particular, where,

4. More particularly of the Greek Aiwn, Aiwnes, and Aiwnios, and Arguments, or Reasons, why they in Scripture mostly, or therein most ordinarily and usually significant not Eternity, but rather Eviternity, or Age-wise. The Reasons hered

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1. Because these Words are used in Scripture not to express God's absolut Eternity, such as 1 Tim. 6. 16. but even in relation to us his Decree is but (Gr. twn Aiwnon, Eph. 3. 11. that is, of the Ages, and not eternal as to y word in this p

2. Because as here the Predetermination of the Ages is made in Christ so (ho the Cosms or Worlds,) but Aiwnes, or the Ages are made by Christ, Heb. 1.2. and as these Texts are of Ages past, or a parte ante, so is also Col. 1.26. where Aiwne also thus signifies, and is englished, the Ages.

3. Because Aiwnios also being made an Epithite to Chronos plurally, Rom. 16. 25 2 Tim. 1.9. Tit. 1.2. is yet more evidently made not to signify, a parte ante, an other than what is temporal, for so it is also used with a Greek pro, i. e. before.

4. Because as it is an Epithete to Cronos, time plu. of which Cronos the Angel sweat that it shall be no more, Rev. 10. 6, 7. so a parte post, it also can't ever significational, because made an Epithete to hope, Tit. 1. 2. beginning, which shall fail an cease, as 1 Cor. 13.13. so that the Ages and Generations coupled together, Col. 1. 26 seem much of the same Duration; Christ in the Original being called the Father the Age, Isa. 9. 6. and as Aiwn plurally is used according to the Greek, in Jude 2 with an all, so are Generations also used with an all, Eph. 3. 21. where, according to the Greek, it is word for word, Unto all the Generations of the Age of the Age. Thus will not Christ's last of Generations be the last of his Ages?

5. Because this a parte post, what the Translators englished the end of the World, the ends of the World, Mat. 13. 29, 40. ch. 24. 3. ch. 28. v. 20. Heb. 9. 26. 1 Co

10. 11. it is only Aiwn, whether fingularly or plurally.

6. Because Gnolam and Aiwn would be plainly cleared, to signify not that which eternal or endless, but age-wise, were they not so much concealed, when Englished of old, for ever, from the beginning, from the beginning of the World, for ever more, for ever and ever, and with a Negative, never, World, both singularly as plurally, and so used plurally is Aiwn also englished World, Conese, World with end, and the like.

Arg. 2. I argue Damnation not to be only-Eternal, but Age-wise, from the venature and being of God himself, and of his glorious Excellencies, and singulatributes, and from God the Father his chusing, appointing, and covenantic

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and ill's very Salned, thall become a Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World, 2 Job. 2.2. with 3.17. And thus according to my Understanding the said Excellencies and Atbutes seem best reconciled this way, and thus do they offer matter of sweetest editation to all Mankind, God in Christ being Philanthraps, Tit. 3.4. Prov. 8.31. well as Theanthraps, God-man, or Emanuel, God with us.

But how many hard Thoughts have risen in the Minds of many, yea of some uring God, about the common Opinion, that by far the most shall everlastingly be mented, for a short whiles temporary sinning? and how many have been vexed and relexed in their Minds and Spirits, with that dreadful and amazing Question, bether it be better or more eligible for rational Creatures, not to have any being at and to be utterly annihilated, rather than to be endlessly miserable, and to be tormented.

ever in Hell?

And let it be further minded, notwithstanding God's just Judgment upon and ainst fallen Angels, yet he hath given them much Relaxation, and Liberty for thounds of Years, here in this World, Gen. 3.15. with Mat. 12 43,44,45. Mat. 8.30,31.
18. 8. 30, 31. Whereas God is gracious, long suffering and great in Goodness;
I how doth he testify it, Act. 14. 17. and how exemplarily doth he reach out
dextend Good to all, Mat. 5.45. thereby to encourage us to love our very
semies! For thus his tender Mercies are over all his Works, and all his Works
Il praise him, Psal. 145. 8,9,10. and his Mercy triumpheth over Judgment, Jam.
13. Psal. 103. 8, 9, 10. and therefore he judgeth no Man, but hath committed
Judgment to the Son, Joh. 5.22. But this may appear farther under the next
gument.

Arg. 3. I argue from Christ's two natuures in one Sublistence, and consequently in his Office of Mediatorship, or Priest, Prophet, and King, and accordingly makes two States, both of Humiliation and Exaltation; There being Scriptures by express concerning his dying for all actually, as Joh. 3.16,17. 2 Cor. 5.14,15. Iim. 2.4,5,6. Heb. 2.9,10. Psal. 6.8, 10. he being the Head of every Man, 7 Cor. 3. and this being plainly spoken of the Son, of his being manifest, on purpose destroy the Works of the Devil, 1 Joh. 3.8. with Heb. 2.14. and thus also is it ke testified of his being sent into the World, not to condemn the World, but that the reld through Him might be saved, Joh. 3.17. and therefore he claims it accordingly faith, All Souls are mine, Ezek. 18.4. how willing may he be therefore, that or last all may come to the Knowledg of the Truth, and Repentance, and that may thus actually in effect, all be saved, 1 Tim. 2.4.2 Pet. 3.9. also Christ id to be the Saviour of all Men, 1 Tim. 4.10. and he thus giving himself, is said a Ransom for all, 2 Pet. 3.9. as also he is the Propitiation for the Sins of the leworld, 1 Joh. 2.2.

and thus it may be herewith also farther supposed that Christ did actually seel undergo, for all fallen Mankind, all that Death, all those Deaths in the several is of them, which were threatned against Sin and Sinners, even the whole full Wrath of God due to Sin, even the very Torments, as some apprehend.

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of Hell; or else, that however his Soul was sorrowful unto Death, wherein he might and did undergoe the sorrows of Death and Hell, as Gen. 2. 17. & 3. 15. with Psal. 18.5,6. Mat. 26.38. Mark 14.34. Luke 22.44. Act. 2.31. Gal. 3.10, 13.

(1 Cor. 15.22. 2 Sam. 22.5,6. and Pfal. 19.4,5.

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Neither is the Everlastingness of the Torments to be suffered in Hell, as some Suppose, or in the Lake of Fire, any part of the Penalty threatned by way of Satissaction to infinite Justice. For so, God's infinite Justice could never be sully satisfied, no not by the endless Torments of the Damned, if they were to be endless; for more and more Justice would still call for further Satisfaction, which meet Man can never fully latisfy, by all his Sufferings; but rather, that full Satisfaction was an Effect of somewhat annext to infinite Justice, the Punishment it self in the whole of it, being not endurable by any meer guilty Creature; and thus the ong-lastingness of the Torment in Hell hath no place, where that which is full Punishment for Sin, is actually born, and fully satisfied, as that was which was performed in and by Christ, so that henceforth on this account no Man herefore was or now is, or shall be tormented in Hell, for want of a Renedy, but only for rejecting the one only Remedy, Heb. 2. 3. Such things which may be well proved and cleared by Scripture, may help to a right Determination in the Case. For Christ's Kingdom is that which is age-wise, Pet. 1. 11. and yet not of this World, John 18. 36. and must at last have in end, I Cor. 15. 24. and yet then first bring forth Judgment unto Victoy, in the moment when that which is perfect shall coine, Matth. 12.20. with Cor. 13.10. after all its encrease, Isa. 9.7. that corruption shall thus in a moment, t last, put on incorruption, 1 Cor. 15. 51; 52, &c. and the Triumph be then acordingly, ver.54,55,56. with ver.57. and thus shall Christ reign, till he make all is Enemies his Foot-stool, ver. 24, 26. he exercising, doing, or executing all his ictorious Judgment, John 5. 22, 27. in humane nature, and to the especial hoour of his Saints in this Werld, Pfal. 149. last; that when God's Judgments hall be thus in the Earth, the Inhabitants (not of the Earth only, but) of the World may learn Righteousness, Isa. 26.9. and thus Christ be glorified and admied in his most believing Saints, 2 Theff. 1, 10. to the benefit of all Creatures every where, as Rev. 5. 10, 14.

Arg. 4. I argue the like hereto, from the never-failing all-efficiency, which in the irrefittible and effectual application of Christ's Universal Redemption, is most nanifestly the very Office and proper Work of the Holy Spirit. For this Holy Spirit, who is one with the Father and Son in his testimony, 1 John 5.7. being ionian, or agenife, as well as Christ's Kingdom is aionian, Heb. 9.14. with 2 Po. 11. How is the Spirit alike judicial also with the Son in its changing and renewing Work, on all, how diversly soever, Isa. 4. 4. with 1 Cor. 15.51. and with Ezek. 17.24. and being already given to this very purpose, in way of Earnest, and first Fruits, 2 Cor. 1.22. Rom. 8.23. and why? but in order to the residue of the Spirit, that it may bring in the residue of Men, after Israel's Restitution, Mas. 15. Rom. 11.32, 15. with Acts 15. 16, 17. in a transforming way changing,

thereof accordingly, in seeing by this revealing Spirit, all that the Father hath, to become the Glory of the Son, who is the Age-wile Lord, Heb. 11.40. 1 Cor. 15.51. with Chap. 2.9, 10, 11. Is 40.5. Job. 16.14, 15. 1 Job 3.2. and how universal, on all shelh, shall this essuit of the Spirit be, Joel 2.28. and that to an answerable universal essect of the Spirit, in and on all Flesh, Is 40.5. and that after foregoing Judgment and Tribulation, Joel 2.28. with v. 18, &c. and with Mat. 24.22. (Gr.) with Is 40. v. 7, 6, 5. Hab. 3.2.

Arg. 5. This I might largely argue also (if I had space here) from the capacity and expectation of the humane Nature and Rational being in all Mankind, in the which is a hope that is aiwnian or age-mise, Tit. 1.v.2. beg. alike with such things, as Heb.6.2. Mark 3. 29, &c. which seems to good purpose, to reach the very Creature it self indefinitely, without exception, and that with, and from the very now first suffering Saints, Rom. 8.20,21,22,23,24,25. and therefore the Gospel to be Gospel so universally preacht, as Mat. 28.18, 19. with Mark 16.15,16. in all the World, to every Creature, as with a regard had therein to every Creature, and that in order to put us therefore upon an abounding in the Work of the Lord, as 1 Cor. 15.58. having our Senses exercised so well, to discern between Good and Evil, in such soundness of Principles, as may conduce to the going on to Persection, Heb.5. lat. with Chap.6. beg. and therefore the Gospel of Christ's Kingdom sometimes is hinted at as alike aiwnian with his Kingdom it self, as Rev. 14.6. Matth. 24. 13,14. with 2 Pet. 1.11. and is not in vain so called aiwnian.

Arg. 6. I argue it from the New Covenant, about the New Creation that is to be established, thorow and by means of, and upon the taking away of the first old Covenant, Jer. 31.31,&c. Heb. 8.8, &c. Heb. 10.9. and that unto the making, not only of a new Heaven and Ear h according to Promise, 2 Pet. 3.13. Rev. 21.1. but to the making of all Things new, v. 5. So that God causing so great a shaking, as well in Heaven as in Earth, most remarkably: Why is there so great a shaking, I thereby to remove that which is shaken but in order to establish that which cannot be shaken, that that may remain in the room and stead of that, which being shaken, is to give place, and to be no more, and all this for encouragement to serve God acceptably and aright, Heb. 12.26,27,28,29. And therefore it is all spoken of, as assuredly as if already done, how that with respect had to the New Creature in Christ, all old Things are done away, and all Things become New, 2 Cor. 5. 17, 18.

Therefore if the first old decayed World, and this corrupt Creation-state of things shall be but near an hundred such Generations, as Psal. 90. v. 10. or according to the seven days of its Creation-week, Gen. 1st, 2d, 3d, Chapters, with 2 Pet. 5.8. Yet there are a thousand Generations mentioned Psal. 105.8. 1 Chron. 16. 15. Deut. 7. 9. with Exod. 20. 6. and do they not hint out the Son's special Generation, proper to the New Creation and Covenant, of which his Kingdom shall in particular

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especially consist? And which of these thousand Generations shall be less than thousand Years? For did not Metholelab, in a World destroyed, live near a thousand Years? which may have something of Type in it, there being to be a Scason wherein a hundred Years shall be but an Infants Age, Is a. 65.20. And at the latter end of this World, when the Beast and False Prophet shall suffer, shall not the suffering Saints reign then a thousand Years, Rev. 19. lat. with Rev. 20. 4? And is not all this something to intimate, that Christ's Age-wise special Kingdom, in Type and Antitype both, shall be more than a thousand thousand Years? And in all this time, and at the end of it, such as at the last Change, shall not Judgment, for and in the behalf of Incorruption, be indeed victorious: as 1 Cor. 15.51, &c. with Matth. 12.20. that there may be a deliverance out of the hands of all Enemies, Luke 1.74. and there be then also no more curse, Rev. 22.3. but Sin it self, or Sins be made an end of, Dan. 9.24. and so the very inferior Creature also be no more made Subject to the vanity which it is at present groaning under, Rom. 8.21, 22?

Arg. 7. Lastly, I argue it from the final destruction of Death, the Gulph, Hell it self, and the very Abyss or Deep, which is become the special place of the great Leviathan, spoken of as the Dragon in the Sea. For what though gradual Death was threatned, Gen. 2. 17. (Heb.) yet this shall not prevent Death, the last Enemy, I Cor. 15.26. but this second Death at last, after all the time of the first Death and Hell, before the last Judgment unaccomplished and unfixt, shall become Death to the very last change of all Creatures, I Cor. 15. 51. with Rom. 8. 21. even till then a Death of Deaths, a Hell-death, the Death of Hell, made up of the two special Ingredients; the one Ingredient of and from that of the former first Death, and of and from the other this of Hell, as it was before unfixed, as if then formerly it had been in the Air, and Sea, or Abysse, rather than in Gebenna, or the Lake of Fire and Brimstone on Earth, in that which is in respect of the Holy City and its Appurtenances, called the without, Rev. 22. 15. And how is this place of outward and utter darkness decyphered or deno ed, in its Type or Antitype, as before, but as 1 Cor. 15.26, Rev. 1.18, & 2.11. & 20.1, 10, 14. & 12.8. Ezek. 28.10. 8 32.21.24 - 32.8 18.23. & 33.11. with 1 Job. 5.16,17. and the like.

But yet shall it not however be a Death, as great and long a Death and as long as it is, and shall endure, that shall be sinal and destroyed? And therefore shall there not be a season, when the Sea it self shall be no more, and that as the season it end, as an earnest of a sull issue, to what results from thence, which is therefore the more considerable, according to Isa. 27. 1, &c. with the end of the former Chapter, and with Isa. 57. 20,21. and so with Rev. 13. 1. & 11. 7. & 17. 8. & 20. 13. & 9.1,2, 11. Luke 8.31. Rom. 10. 7. Dent. 30. 12. and the like: And therefore shall not all this be that which Christ hath not in vain triumphed against, Hos. 13. 14. speaking then so long ago to this purpose: From the hand of Sheol will I free them, from Death I, faith the LORD Christ, (who by consanguinity and propinguity, have a Right, Authority, and Power thereunto) will redeem them: I will be thy killing Pestilence, O Death: I will be thy exterminating Excision, O Sheol

Orthou gulf & Hell!) Repentance (as to this thus determination all the Ages, and all the Generations thereof, in victory against Hell-death.) Il be hidden from mine eyes. Neither doth the New Testament disagree from is, in 1 Cor. 15.54,55,56, with 57. Where the Apolle doth triumph, first, in the neral, against Death, ver. 54 end, and then more especially make a more parular Triumph; 1. Against Death's great sharpness, as quite enervated, ver. 55 ginning; and then, 214: against Hodes, v.55, latter end, which doth more prorly fignify Hell than the Grave, as Pfal. 16. 40: For who would not conceive the ul here in this of the Pfalmift, to be distinct from the Flesh, in the former verse; id if then the Flesh may be understood of the Body in the Grave, where bodily prruption is usually suffered, how can the Soul be understood but of the incoraptible part of Christ's Humanity, even of his inward man elsewhere? For, did not s Soul continue elsewhere separate from his Body all the time his Flesh or Body as in the Grave to Surely his Flesh, or Body and Soul, may not both of them be lought to have their being and abode, after his Death till his Resurrection, in the me place, till the very hour of his Resurrection, or the third day. But this will apar more evidently from the following 56th verse, where Sin, as the cause mostly d principally of Hell's Victory, is therefore most directly triumphed against, and at as to its Sting, which is not without torment, whereas the Flesh or Body hath o torment at all, or sensible suffering in the Grave. Nay, there also in that same erle, the Law it self, that of Nature, and of the first Covenant broken, yea and of oth Covenants not continued in, or of what ever is Law, and is transgressed, and come any way the strength of Sin, is here explicated, and that also under this ead of Triumph, which is the Triumph that is here made against all the greatest and most powerful Enemies of the Creature, and therefore against Hell it felf, as an nemy, that all will confess doth last longer than the first Death, and also than the reves and that is that which doth take in all Deads, otherwise than the Grave oth. Thus therefore is that which is concluded on in v.57. that which is to nikes, cat'exection, that which is the Victory, as the whole and full Victory through our ord Jesus; only my Preparatory Sheet will now admit no more but the following 12.8. Esch. 28.40. \$92.20.4-32.80.32. 8237.11. with a judy, as a spand

## APPENDIX.

His is but a first that to begin with, and peradventure opposition may follow to the hope, under God in Christ, is, That a sew chosen may and by seasonable Truth, and by a favourer of it, sometime under more Southress, whence still a sufferer in Body, by Windland otherwise, and from whom the value of hundreds, or nearer thousands of pounds may have slipt, without the discouraging him from his Studies in Scripture Prophecies, whereon this neet is sounded, and which may therefore be willingly attended with progress, there shall be occasion, if he may be thereunto encouraged, and his Family-oncernments may not be so over look'd, that enforcing Necessary should there to discourse him live and the state of the state